

Dear Friend,

As the summer legislative session kicks into high gear, I wanted to update you on energy issues, student loan concerns, renewing ocean and fishing laws, this year's winner of the annual Congressional Artistic Discovery competition, and progress on a Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery. If you find this newsletter useful and worthwhile, please feel free to forward it to your friends and neighbors.

You can always find out more about these and other issues - like immigration, Medicare, and foreign policy - by exploring [my web site](#) .

Energy Issues Heat Up as Temperatures Soar

Gas prices well over \$3 per gallon have highlighted a serious problem this country faces. Our excessive dependence on fossil fuel energy leaves us dependent on an uncertain global market and is a pressing matter of national security. We must develop an innovative energy security strategy that will give future generations of Americans an economy less dependent on oil and fossil fuels. [Continue reading...](#)

Student Loans - Changes in rates coming July 1st!

On July 1, 2006 the interest rates on outstanding federal student loans are expected to rise to just over 7 percent-the highest rate in six years-and the rate on outstanding federal parent loans are expected to rise to about 7.8 percent. Student borrowers who consolidate before July 1st may be eligible to lock in a rate as low as 4.75 percent over the life of their loan(s)-which would save the typical undergraduate borrower almost \$3,500 over the life of his or her loan. But students and parents must act quickly to ensure that they can lock in these lower rates. [Continue reading...](#)

Renewing Our Fishing Laws - For Better or Worse?

Our nation's primary fishing-related law is up for renewal. This law, called the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), has not been reauthorized and updated for several years. The MSA plays a critical role in our efforts to strike a balance between the needs of the fishing industry and the need to maintain a sustainable and healthy ocean. Both the House and Senate have made good progress this year in drafting MSA updates, but because of the longevity and broad impacts of reauthorization, it is important to take the time needed to create and pass a good bill. [Continue reading...](#)

Annual Congressional Art Competition

I am proud to announce the winner of the 17th Congressional District of the Congressional Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery: Noe Van Spyk of Carmel High School!

2006 marks the 25th Anniversary of this annual competition for high school students. This year high schools from all around our district participated, including: Aptos, Carmel, Cypress Grove Charter, Everett Alvarez, Georgiana Bruce Kirby, Harbor, Monterey, Pacific Valley, Palma, San Benito, Santa Catalina, and York School. I thank the administrators for their support of this contest and all of the students who participated in the competition. [Continue reading...](#)

Progress on the Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery

Last month , the FY07 Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill was passed out of the House of Representatives. This bill contains language I authored that, for the first time, provides a new opportunity for creating state-sponsored veterans cemeteries: public-private partnerships. Fort Ord has been selected as the ideal place for the pilot project of this innovative idea. [Continue reading...](#)

Thank you for reading this email.



Sam Farr
Member of Congress